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October 4, 2017

Via email and FOIA Online

Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 1 (OARM01-6)
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912
Facsimile: (617) 918-1102
Email: r1foia@epa.gov

RE: FOIA Request for EPA Region 1 (including Communications) Records Concerning the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Technical Report

To Whom This May Concern:

This is a request for public records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) at 40 C.F.R. Part 2.

Background

In April 2017, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (“NBEP”) posted draft sections of *The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Technical Report*, seeking public input before the final report was published. On October 23, 2017, the NBEP published *The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Technical Report*.¹ This report was developed since 2014 through a collaborative effort between local universities, environmental organizations, and environmental agencies. Taking into consideration 24 indicators of environmental conditions in Narragansett Bay and its watershed, the report presents and analyzes trends using the available indicator data.

¹ NBEP. October 2017. *The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Technical Report*. <http://nbep.org/01/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/State-of-Narragansett-Bay-and-Its-Watershed-lower-resolution.pdf>

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Request

This request seeks:

1. Any and all EPA Region 1 and ORD NHEERL, Atlantic Ecology Division, communications since January 1, 2014 regarding any aspect of the development of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program *The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed Technical Report*.

This request addresses any communication on any of the topics being addressed in the NBEP Report. This request expressly includes any internal EPA communications (within any office of EPA – including ORD, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI) as well as any communications by EPA with any outside party such as DOJ, MassDEP, RIDEM, or NBEP.

Please contact the undersigned if the associated search and duplication costs are anticipated to exceed \$100.00. Please duplicate the records that are responsive to this request and send it to the undersigned at the above address. If the requested record is withheld based upon any asserted privilege, please identify the basis for the non-disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact this office so as to ensure that only the necessary document is duplicated.

Respectfully,

//s// Benjamin M. Kirby
Benjamin M. Kirby